

Clinician Update

March 24, 2022

Mark Your Calendars for Doctors' Day! Because This Is Gonna Be Good...

When we say "Hello Good," we're saying hello to the moments that inspire and energize us. It's an intentional practice of finding the good in each other and all the amazing things we achieve together.

Each year, health care institutions pause to recognize their people—and we want to make these occasions feel extra special. Next week, we celebrate and honor you on March 30, National Doctors' Day. Here's what to expect:

- Personalized messages of thanks from Virtua's leadership team.
- Advertisements in local media, such as *The South Jersey Times*, *Trenton Times*, and on NJ.com. The ads are a special look forward to our future health care work force and feature some familiar faces.
- A dedicated internet [landing page featuring a special video](#) that will be shared also on Virtua's social channels. As always, we encourage you to take part in the [Official Virtua Colleagues' Facebook page](#) so you can see messages of gratitude from your colleagues.
- For hospital-based clinicians, each of our acute care facilities will offer a free meal.
- Digital and mail outreach from Virtua's Philanthropy team to drive readers to [Virtua.org/Gratitude](#) to honor our clinicians, with similar drives from Virtua's e-publications like *Good Vibes*.
- Special Doctors' Day shout-outs through our internal communications channels and in our daily huddles.

Be sure to check out these messages and activities and let us be the first to wish you Happy Doctors' Day 2022!

U.S. News & World Report Best Hospitals Survey Closes Tomorrow

Tomorrow, March 25, is the last day to participate in the *U.S. News & World Report* survey for Best Hospitals. A vital component of the assessment derives from you, from surveyed physicians voting via [Doximity](#), the online networking service for medical professionals. We're grateful if you can help bring positive attention to Virtua through your participation in this poll.

If you are a registered Doximity member, a survey link should have been emailed to you in February. Even if you have not received the email, you can still vote by logging in to [Doximity](#) with your username and password.

If you are not a Doximity member, you can register at any time between now and the end of the voting period this Friday. It only takes a few minutes. [Learn how to register here](#). Once registered, ensure that your board specialty is noted correctly.

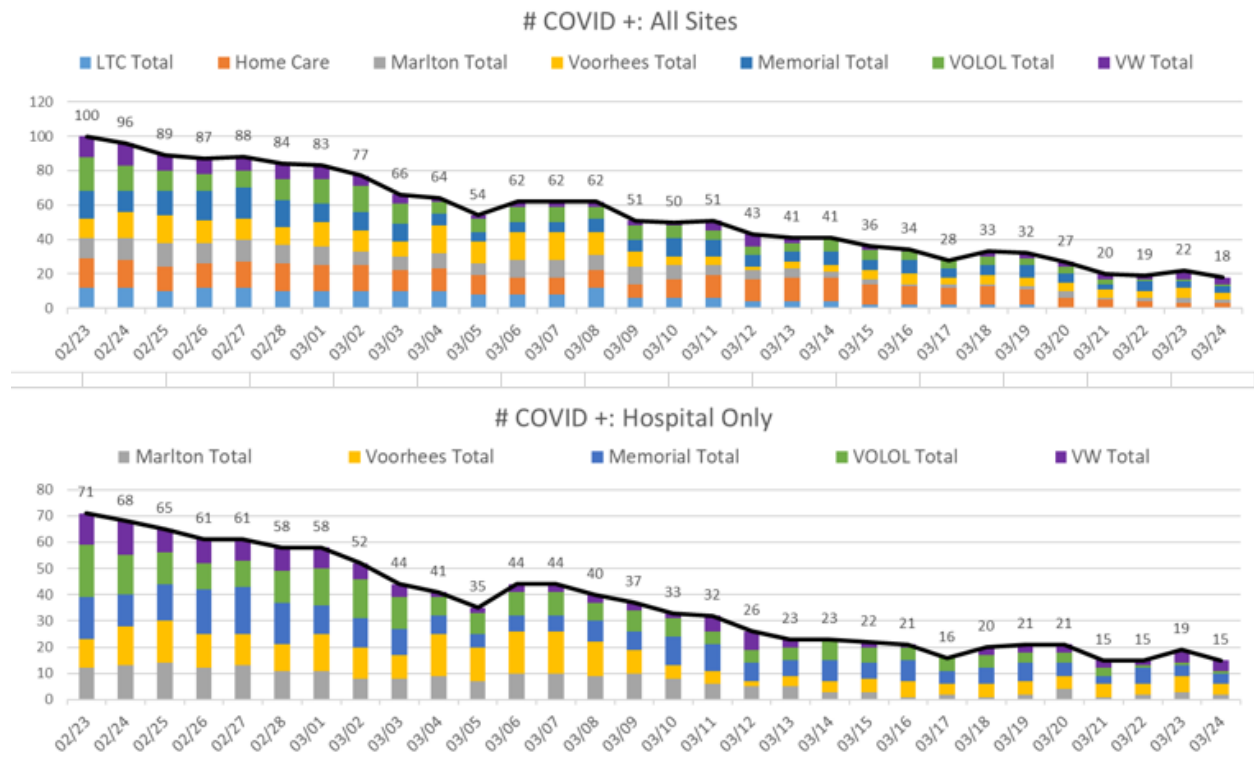
U.S. News typically releases its rankings in July. This past year, Virtua hospitals scored among the best performing in our area in services such as COPD, diabetes, heart failure, and kidney disease. Virtua's reputation for excellence was also recognized by *U.S. News & World Report* in 2021-2022 on its

inaugural list of Best Hospitals for Maternity Care. Let's continue to share the good news about Virtua Health. Make your nominations today.

Virtua Clinician Communications Survey Extended Through March 31.

We know there are lots of requests for your opinion these days, but we want to be sure we are delivering messaging that's timely and relevant to our Virtua clinicians. Our goal is to always keep you informed—and to do this effectively and efficiently. To make sure we hear from you, we've extended our Communications Survey deadline a week. The survey (which takes less than 5 minutes) will now close at 5 p.m. on Thursday, March 31. [You can take the survey here.](#)

COVID-19 Census



Latest COVID-19 Fast Facts

- The rate of transmission in New Jersey was reported today as 0.95.
- The total number of cases reported as of 3 p.m. today:
 - Atlantic County 54,522
 - Burlington County: 82,838 cases
 - Camden County: 103,686 cases
 - Gloucester County: 54,461 cases
- COVID-associated mortality for Camden, Burlington, Gloucester, and Atlantic counties: 4,562.
- The state's Vaccination Overview dashboard reported 17,023,726 doses of vaccine have been administered.

Reminder: Compliance with COVID-19 Booster Requirement by April 11

In complying with Gov. Phil Murphy's [Executive Order 283](#), most Virtua colleagues and contractors must receive the COVID-19 vaccine booster shot by Monday, April 11, or within three weeks (21 calendar days) of becoming eligible for a booster, whichever is later.

April 11 will now be the compliance deadline for an initial group of colleagues, with the rest of our colleagues becoming eligible at various dates over the next several months (depending on when they completed their initial vaccine series; what type of vaccine they received for the initial series; and whether they have tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 90 days).

Hundreds of emails providing proof of vaccination have been sent to covidvaccinedocumentation@virtua.org each day over the past few weeks. We encourage you and your team members to continue sending in proof of vaccination so that you are accounted for.

Virtua Surgeon Part of Study Group Using Bio-Inductive Scaffold

Virtua orthopedic surgeon Sean McMillan, DO, is the co-author of two recently published articles on the use of a bio-inductive scaffold for medial collateral ligament (MCL) reconstruction and rotator cuff repair. The premise behind the research in using a bio-inductive scaffold is to allow the body to heal faster, stronger, and safer.

Synthetic and biological implants are increasing in popularity to augment repairs and reconstructions for biomechanical reinforcement and promotion of the native healing response to hasten rehabilitation.

The BioBrace™ (Biorez, New Haven, CT) is a bio-inductive scaffold composed of highly porous type I collagen and bioresorbable poly (L-lactide) microfilaments, providing an environment for soft-tissue regeneration and mechanical support. Unique to its properties is an inherent strength to the scaffold, which has not previously been seen in bio-inductive implants. [This article describes](#) the surgical technique and relative indications for the BioBrace™ in knee MCL ligament repairs and reconstructions.

Despite operative fixation, it is not uncommon for patients to experience rotator cuff re-tear. Previous literature has shown that the addition of a rotator cuff graft can decrease re-tear rates significantly. [This article describes](#) how a bio-inductive scaffold provides the ability to combine the benefits of bio-induction and strength into a single implant to provide a successful, reproducible technique for rotator cuff augmentation.

Dr. McMillan also is currently performing a biomechanical study on the BioBrace, along with co-investigator orthopedist Merrick Wexler, MD, at Rowan University, with the goal to better repair the ligament that gets injured with knee cap dislocation. This is yet another example of Virtua Orthopedics and Spine's goal of bringing the latest surgical advancements for our patients through the recently announced research collaboration with Rowan.

Virtua in the News

- **Virtua's CEO Discusses Health System's Growth, Challenges** — The *Philadelphia Business Journal* recently interviewed the leaders of four area health systems, including Virtua President and CEO Dennis W. Pullin. The conversation ranged from the pandemic to health equity and workplace violence to Virtua's Hospital at Home program. Read [here](#).

- **How South Jersey is Adjusting to the ‘New Normal’** — As the world enters its third year of the pandemic, area residents shared their views on living in this new reality. Dr. Martin Topiel, head of infectious diseases, offered his advice for staying safe and discussed what the future may hold. Read the *Courier-Post* story [here](#).
- **The Pandemic’s Mental-Health Impact on Local Restaurant Workers** — From owners to busboys, the people who make up South Jersey’s restaurant industry have challenging jobs. But the mental toll worsened as widespread issues such as staffing and supply shortages began affecting restaurants from top to bottom. This *Courier-Post* story includes insights from Virtua psychotherapist Samantha Nusom. Read [here](#).

Upcoming Events

Crank the Food Bank Saturday, March 26

We invite you to run or walk the 5th Annual “Crank the Food Bank 5K” hosted by Virtua Clinical Nutrition. The event takes place at the Virtua Voorhees campus and benefits Virtua’s Eat Well programs and the Food Bank of South Jersey. Register for a fun day filled with exercise, music, and snacks for a great cause. [Click to register](#)—t-shirts will be given to the first 200 participants.

Run with the Docs! Sunday, June 12

Lace up those sneakers again for [Run with the Docs](#). Virtua Voorhees Hospital is the scene of this popular 5K run and 1-mile walk—all to support our programs for families who have experienced [pregnancy and infant loss](#). For event organizers and OB/GYN physicians Drs. Stacy McCrosson and Kimberly Bridges-White, the event is a great opportunity to get out for a truly meaningful cause. For more information, click [here](#).

From the Hello Good Mailbox

At Virtua, WE always ensure that WE place the patient at the center of what WE do. Sue Hatch, VP of audit and compliance, shared the good with us by forwarding a note from a patient’s family member who would like to thank and recognize the team at Virtua Voorhees Hospital’s emergency department (ED). She wrote:

I accompanied my sister-in-law (law) to the ED. The tech Omar transported her to the back, but she couldn’t get on the gurney. Omar assisted her with strength and care. He is amazing at his job.

While in the waiting room, my sister-in-law had to use the restroom. I was unable to help her alone so the tech Amy wheeled her into the ladies’ room and assisted her. Amy was kind and professional.

The patient care liaison Kimberly introduced herself and inquired if we needed anything. Since she was wearing a mask, we couldn’t see her actual smile but her spirit smiled. Her eyes were caring.

The nurse Claudia approached us with extreme care. She set up the IV and hit the vein on the first try with very minimal pain. Dr. Melnick then approached my sister-in-law with care. He talked to us, not at us. He was very attentive; he wasn't short or impatient. I appreciated his bedside manner.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge Alexia from Registration, who was accurate and professional, and radiology tech Sharon, who was kind and considerate. Everyone on the team demonstrated kindness, respect, professionalism, and integrity. Please accept this note of appreciation. Well done!

See the good? Share the good with us! Email hellogood@virtua.org with stories, letters, and cards about fellow colleagues who are spreading the good in our campuses and the community.